GRADUATION
280 join alumni rolls

CEDAR RAPIDS
BLACK HISTORY
Student-faculty research unearths rich past

CONTEMPORARY
ISSUES FORUM
Global health authority Laurie Garrett brings tough talk to Coe
Family first for Kernels crew
Minor league baseball is a family affair for Cedar Rapids Kernels General Manager Scott Wilson '91, son Keenan Wilson '15, wife Karen Kennedy Wilson '92 and the rest of the Wilson clan.

Graduation 2015
President David McInally conferred Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts in Teaching degrees on 280 members of the class of 2015.

Student-faculty research uncovers Cedar Rapids history
A student-faculty research project that drew heavily on the resources of a local museum has unearthed a rich chapter of Cedar Rapids history.
Contemporary Issues Forum with Laurie Garrett
Pulitzer Prize-winning global health authority Laurie Garrett had harsh words for vaccination opponents and the American media at the 12th Coe College Contemporary Issues Forum.

Coe-trained teachers bring innovation to Iowa’s secondary STEM classrooms
In Cedar Rapids and across Iowa, secondary teachers trained at Coe are taking innovative approaches to increasing student interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Departments
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ON THE COVER
Taylor Rowell ’15 decorated her mortar board with a sentiment shared by many of her classmates.
ELIMINATION: A DEV CONRAD MYSTERY

By Ed Gorman '68

The latest mystery by Cedar Rapids author Ed Gorman '68 is scheduled for release on July 1. “Elimination: A Dev Conrad Mystery” is the latest novel in the prolific writer’s anthology.

In Gorman’s intriguing fifth Dev Conrad mystery (after 2013’s “Flashpoint”), three shots are fired at congresswoman Jessica Bradshaw, who’s running for reelection, after she leaves a TV debate in Danton, Illinois, where she faced off against her opponent, Trent Dorsey, a caricature of the right-wing rabble-rouser. The shots miss, and the would-be assassin escapes.

A standard-model modern liberal who’s embarrassed by her personal wealth, Bradshaw is doing well in the polls, but her imperious and ambitious husband, Ted, could be a liability. In addition, the fragile health of their daughter, Katherine, is a worry.

The discovery of the shotgun used in the shooting in a Bradshaw staffer’s car trunk suggests the incident was staged. Conrad, Bradshaw’s political adviser, determines to track down the guilty party. Readers of all political stripes will have as much fun following the maneuverings of Bradshaw’s and Dorsey’s respective campaigns as trying to figure out whodunit.

Gorman has worked in politics as both a speechwriter and a TV producer. He has won the Shamus, Anthony, Ellery Queen, Spur and International Fiction awards. He has been short-listed for an Edgar Award twice, and once for the Silver Dagger. In 2011, Gorman received The Eye, the lifetime achievement award from The Private Eye Writers of America.


Stookey Remembered

The spring issue of the Courier came the other day and, oh, I can’t tell you how I enjoyed it! It is a beautiful publication. But what especially delighted me was the article about S. Donald Stookey ’36. I was a freshman at Coe when he was a junior, and more, he married a girlfriend of mine – Ruth Watterson ’38. Donald and his brother, David Stookey ’37, were well-liked. I recall them both vividly and how pleased I was to read the full article about Don’s career. I’ve had fun telling my friends here about him and his inventions.

Abigail Gilbert Martin ’38
Brandon, Florida

A hand for the brand

Even at age 95, and with the passing of 64 years since my first steps onto the Coe campus in 1951, the college still remains a cherished memory with my highest regard for my introduction to college administration. And, the Coe College Courier is a welcome sight on our reading table.

In addition to all of that, I am motivated to write as a commendation to the Coe administration for its common sense approach in selecting “Coe makes it possible; you make it happen,” what I as a traditionalist still refer to as the “mission statement logo.” This new craze of the “branding” selections leaves me unimpressed. One institution has a brief brand that begs the critical question: What about education?

The Coe “brand” has not just the identity, as in the case of a cattle brand, it presents forcefully the primary mission of the college. I could elaborate on that, but you all created the phrase after careful deliberation of what the new “brand” or logo presents about the college. Congratulations!

John Jamrich, Northern Michigan University president emeritus
Jacksonville, Florida
A COMPLEX FATE: WILLIAM L. SHIRER AND THE AMERICAN CENTURY
By Ken Cuthbertson, Foreword by Morley Safer

William Shirer '25, a star foreign correspondent with the Chicago Tribune in the 1920s and '30s, was a prominent member of what one contemporary observer described as an extraordinary band of American journalists, “some with the Midwest hayseed still in their hair,” who gave their North American audiences a visceral sense of how Europe was spiraling into chaos and war. Shirer, who set off for Europe soon after graduating from Coe with no job and a small loan from President Harry Gage, worked for several international news services before he caught the attention of CBS broadcaster Edward R. Murrow.

In 1937, Shirer left print journalism and became the first of the now legendary “Murrow boys,” working as an on-air partner to the iconic Murrow. With Shirer reporting from inside Nazi Germany and Murrow from blitz-ravaged London, the pair built CBS’s European news operation into the industry leader and, in the process, revolutionized broadcasting. But after the war ended, the Shirer-Murrow relationship shattered. Shirer lost his job and by 1950 found himself blacklisted as a supposed Communist sympathizer. After nearly a decade in the professional wilderness, he began work on “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich.” Published in 1960, Shirer’s magnum opus sold millions of copies and was hailed as the masterwork that would “ensure his reputation as long as humankind reads.”

Ken Cuthbertson’s “A Complex Fate” is a thought-provoking, richly detailed biography of Shirer. Written with the full cooperation of Shirer’s family, and generously illustrated with photographs, it introduces a new generation of readers to a supremely talented, complex writer, while placing into historical context some of the pivotal media developments of our time.

Cuthbertson relied heavily on Coe’s Shirer Archives – which includes diaries, letters, files and manuscripts, including the original notes and manuscript for “The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich” – to research the book. He gave a presentation on Shirer at a three-day symposium held on Coe’s campus in 2010. He is the author of three previous books. His biography of the American journalist John Gunther was shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award. He lives in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

“A Complex Fate,” 580 pages, is available in hardcover for $34.95 from McGill-Queen’s University Press. ISBN 0773545441.

HOW WE MADE THE GYRAFOAM: THE STORY OF TWO MIDWESTERN FARM BOYS WHO CHANGED WASHDAY MONDAYS FOREVER
By Tom Hoover '68

In 1898, Howard Snyder, a rural Austin, Minnesota farm boy, accepted an offer from Frederick L. Maytag to start working at the Parsons Band Cutter & Self Feeder Co. in Newton, Iowa. This marked the start of Snyder’s inventive career of nearly 30 years, culminating in a series of innovations that propelled the Maytag name to the forefront as an iconic brand among washing machine manufacturers.

Tom Hoover ’68, a Newton historian, has written a book entitled “How We Made The Gyrafoam: The Story of Two Midwestern Farm Boys Who Changed Washday Mondays Forever,” which is now available from the Newton Daily News. The book follows the life of Snyder and reveals the role Maytag, a farm boy from Laurel, Iowa, played as his benefactor and friend. Together these two outstanding men led The Maytag Co. to the top of the washing machine world in 1926.

Maytag once commented about Snyder that “90 percent of everything we make or improve upon is because of him.” At the time of Snyder’s death in 1927, Maytag lamented, “I feel that I am losing a companion, my pal and dearest friend that I ever had.”

Hoover spent 20 years in the classroom as a secondary social studies teacher and coach followed by 20 years as a K-12 administrator. Over the course of his career, he earned a master’s in education, a certificate of advanced studies in educational administration and a Doctor of Education from the University of Northern Iowa.

“How We Made the Gyrafoam” is available for $27.89 (tax, shipping and handling included) from the Newton Daily News, 200 First Avenue E., Newton, IA 50208.
Three Coe graduates receive prestigious Fulbright awards

Two graduating Coe seniors and a recent alumna have received prestigious Fulbright awards for the 2015-16 academic year. This continues a rich tradition of Coe students, alumni and faculty who have received Fullbrights over the years. Coe has established itself as a leading national producer of Fulbright scholars, with 15 awardees in the past four years alone.

Coe graduates Peter Madsen ’15 of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Kelci de Haas ’15 of Longmont, Colorado, have been awarded Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship grants. Madsen will teach in Malaysia during the 2015-16 academic year. Meanwhile, de Haas will be traveling to Turkey for a teaching assignment at a developing university during the next school year.

In addition, Mary Beth Haglin ’14, originally from Alexandria, Minnesota, received a Fulbright to serve in Bulgaria, but had to decline the opportunity.

Madsen majored in French and American studies at Coe, while de Haas majored in communication studies with minors in theatre arts and creative writing. Haglin majored in English and Spanish, and she earned a teaching endorsement in secondary education while at Coe.

All of the Coe award recipients received guidance from Professor Ann Struthers, the college’s Fulbright Program advisor, as well as other faculty members.

Coe receives award for preservation of Whipple Fire House

Coe College has received an award from the Cedar Rapids Historic Preservation Commission for the preservation of Whipple Fire House. The honor was presented as part of the organization’s Historic Preservation Showcase Awards ceremony, held at CSPS on May 2.

During the Historic Preservation Showcase Awards, 10 individuals and organizations from the Cedar Rapids community were honored for making significant restorations or preservation efforts to their historic properties. Qualifying properties were at least 50 years old or designated as historically significant. Coe received the award of excellence for the adaptive re-use, large project category, for the repurposing of the Whipple Fire House.

The former Fire Station #3 at 1424 B Avenue NE was built in 1925, and it was the last pre-World War II fire station to be used by the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. After being in service for 88 years, the facility was closed when the new Central Fire Station on First Avenue was opened in the fall of 2013. Coe acquired the former fire station in early 2014. The college renovated and expanded the building into a new residence hall, which was opened in August. Although the interior of the facility was remodeled, the historic exterior look of the fire house was retained.

“The Coe community is pleased to receive this recognition from the Cedar Rapids Historical Preservation Commission,” said Coe President David McInally. “By working with the city and thanks to our generous benefactors, we were able to create a ‘win-win’ situation that met the college’s need for additional student housing, while at the same time preserving this neighborhood gem.”

Whipple Fire House is named in honor of longtime Coe trustee and supporter William Whipple ’35, who was also a longtime friend of the Cedar Rapids Fire Department and a well-known, active community leader. The Cedar Rapids native died in 2010 at the age of 96.

Originally, the college planned to renovate the existing space for 26 students, using the second-floor bedrooms used by the firefighters and by creating additional rooms in the former truck bays. After careful evaluation, college leaders developed a cost-effective way to add to the second floor of the fire house, thereby creating beds for a total of 37 students.

The Whipple Fire House is not only a new physical facility for the college, but it also houses honor students as part of the college’s first living...
and learning community. Along with student rooms, the Fire House includes a common space and kitchen, which provides ideal space for student interaction.

Coe’s bid of $290,000 for the property was accepted by the city of Cedar Rapids, and the college invested approximately $85,000 in the facility for remodeling, the addition and furnishings. The project was funded in part by a generous grant from the Hall-Perrine Foundation. The fire house sits in the middle of the college’s campus expansion project, which includes the two and one-half block area between 14th Street NE and 15th Street NE along A, B and C Avenues NE. Since early 2006, Coe has acquired approximately 80 percent of the properties in this area.

McInally receives Iowa BIG award

Coe College President David McInally received the “Talking BIG” award for his support of Iowa BIG – a new and innovative high school in Cedar Rapids. The award was presented as part of the organization’s BIG celebration on May 13.

Founded in 2013, Iowa BIG is an initiative-based high school experience where students become makers, designers, storytellers and social entrepreneurs. It was created by the community and through the community-building effort of the Gazette companies and the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Iowa BIG students partner with businesses and organizations that provide real-world initiatives where students experience contextualized learning while earning core class credit. Iowa BIG’s public partners provide projects, mentors, professional development, gifts-in-kind and financial support.

When the creators of Iowa BIG first met McInally, he immediately pledged his support and encouragement. According to the award citation, “At a time when Iowa BIG really needed a college to step up and validate our model and allay the fears of parents by telling them that it is these experiences and these types of students they very much want in their colleges, McInally did it in a BIG way. His sharing of the school’s work has made a huge impact on the community’s support of the Iowa BIG project.”

Coe College is partnering with the Iowa BIG high school in several different ways, with additional collaborations planned for the future. The core design principles for Iowa BIG include: using student passion to drive deep learning and deliver core academic credits; engaging students in authentic community projects, problems and opportunities; and connecting students more deeply to the people and resources of the Creative Corridor.

Coe College, Iowa College of Public Health partner with MPH program

Coe College students will have the opportunity to earn their Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees in five years thanks to a new partnership with the University of Iowa College of Public Health. Beginning this fall, the cooperative program will allow qualified undergraduates from Coe admission to the UI MPH program.

Under the innovative program, Coe students can earn both degrees faster than the normal six years, thereby saving a year of tuition and associated costs. As an additional benefit, program graduates will have a one-year head start on their careers. The creation of this undergraduate to graduate program will enhance career opportunities for Coe students by allowing them to enter the burgeoning field of public health.

Coe students who are interested in the MPH program would take an online class offered by UI during their sophomore year. Then, they would apply for admission to the MPH program during their junior year of study at Coe. During their senior year of study, the students will finish their bachelor’s degrees at Coe while taking three classes at UI. At the end of their fourth year of study, the students in the program will receive their bachelor’s degrees along with their classmates from Coe, and then complete the MPH during a fifth year of study at the University of Iowa.

“We are excited and proud to have Coe College as a partner institution for our MPH program,” said Mary Lober Aquilino, Iowa associate dean for MPH and undergraduate programs. “The University of Iowa College of Public Health will benefit from the availability to draw from Coe’s highly qualified students.”

Coe Assistant Professor of Psychology Benge Tallman ’04 helped to develop the cooperative degree program. He will serve as the dual degree program coordinator for Coe students who pursue study toward their MPH at the University of Iowa.

“Many Coe alumni have gone on to earn their graduate and professional degrees at the University of Iowa, and this new program enhances that relationship by helping students acquire a first-class education for less time and expense,” said Tallman. “The strong liberal arts preparation that Coe students receive coupled with the opportunity to enroll in the UI MPH program will provide them with exceptional opportunities to pursue careers in public health.”

Coe graduates have a record of successful completion of MPH degrees from national and international institutions of higher education, such as the University of Iowa, Yale University, Georgia State University, UCLA, Tulane University and the University of Glasgow. Additionally, Coe students who earned MPH degrees have secured employment in a variety of private and public sector positions including neurosurgery residents, policy analysts, health education specialists, economic research specialists and research associates. Others have pursued their medical degrees.

This program follows the opportunity created last year for Coe students to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a law degree in six years thanks to a new partnership with the University of Iowa College of Law. The cooperative 3+3 program will allow qualified undergraduates from Coe admission to the College of Law after the conclusion of their junior year.
Sewera wins wrestling national championship

For the fourth time in school history, the Coe College wrestling program has crowned a national champion. Farai Sewera ’16 joined the elite club on March 14.

Sewera finished the season with a 29-2 record after defeating Tyler Schneider of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 9-4, in the NCAA final at 165 pounds. After suffering a 4-3 loss to Grand View’s Nathaniel Stadeker in the semifinals of the Simpson Luther L. Hill Invitational on Dec. 6, he rattled off 20 straight wins before suffering his other loss to Wartburg’s Andrew Steiert, 5-3, in the second sudden victory period in the final of the NCAA Central Region Championship on Feb. 28.

Sewera is now 81-24 for his career and is tied for 33rd in school history in career victories. He posted six major decisions, three technical falls and three falls during the season.

With the victory, Sewera joined Clayton Rush ‘11 (2010 & 2011) and Tyler Burkle ’10 (2008) as the only national champion wrestlers in school history. Sewera was the 15th wrestler in school history to wrestle for a national championship. As a team, the Kohawks finished seventh. It was the seventh top-10 finish in school history.

Sewera was named the Iowa Conference co-MVP with Kenny Martin of Wartburg. The IIAC MVP is awarded to any wrestler who wins an NCAA individual title.

Jan Rosenberg ’17, Ryan Harrington ’17, Ryan Sheldon ’15, Donnie Horner ’15 and Creighton Fox ’16 were also named to the All-Iowa Conference Wrestling Team. Coe’s six selections were the second-most by a member school. The team is composed of the top three Iowa Conference place-winners at the NCAA Division III Central Region Championships.

Kohawk baseball run ends just short of World Series

The dream season for the Coe College baseball team came to a close May 17, as 20th-ranked Wisconsin-La Crosse beat the Kohawks twice in the final games of the NCAA Midwest Regional.

The Kohawks couldn’t get the timely out when they needed, as they fell 5-4 in the opener and 15-4 in the final game. Of the 20 runs scored by the Eagles, 16 came with two outs. Coe needed just one win to advance to the NCAA Division III World Series for the first time in school history.

Craig Konrardy ’16, AJ Reuter ’15, Jack Hoffmann ’15 and Michael Goerdt ’15 were named to the NCAA All-Midwest Regional Team. All four players were First Team All-Iowa Conference selections and Second Team D3Baseball.com All-Central Region, a school record number of players honored for Coe and tied for most in the region. All four players also earned American Baseball Coaches Association All-Central Region honors, Konrardy and Hoffmann on the first team, Reuter a second-team selection, and Goerdt named to the third team.

Konrardy was also named a second team All-American at shortstop by the American Baseball Coaches Association. He set school records in at-bats (203), runs scored (55), hits (83), doubles (22), total bases (115) and assists (175). He set a school record with six hits against Simpson on April 11.

Reuter was honored as a starting pitcher. He was 7-1 on the year with a 2.83 ERA, both career bests. Reuter finished the season tied for the best fielding percentage in school history (1.000).

Goerdt, an outfielder, had a career-high five hits – tied for the second most in school history – against Wisconsin-La Crosse on May 15. He also set a school record with three home runs against Central on April 18. Goerdt led the nation with the most sacrifice bunts in school history (17), while being tied for second in total bases (105).

Hoffmann earned a spot as a utility player. He was 8-1 with a school record 1.63 ERA pitching, while hitting .379 with 55 hits, four home runs and 46 RBI. His 2.38 career ERA is the lowest in school history.

Coe set a school record for wins (34), while also having the best batting average (.330) and ERA (3.51) in school history. The three wins in the NCAA Regional is the most by any baseball team in school history.

The Kohawks earned the NCAA berth with an impressive showing in the IIAC Tournament at Veteran’s Memorial Stadium in Cedar Rapids. Entering the tournament as the second seed, the Kohawks beat Central 7-2 and regular season champion Wartburg 6-3 and 12-7 for the title.

Among other milestones from the season, Head Coach Steve Cook earned his 400th win at Coe in a double-header sweep of Central on April 17. On March 28, Connor Alberhasky ’15 threw the fifth no-hitter in school history in a 7-0 win over Loras.

Rodgers, Sprinkel take top Iowa Conference honors

Coe College had seven men’s tennis players honored by the Iowa Conference, along with Noah Sprinkel ’15 being named the league’s Most Valuable Player and Head Coach Eric Rodgers earning Coach of the Year honors.

Sprinkel, who was also named the ITA Central Region Senior of the Year, was voted all-conference in both singles and doubles this season and captured MVP honors for the third-straight year. He finished the year with a 31-11 record, including a 13-4 mark in singles play despite playing only in the spring. He finished his career with a 79-22 singles record.

Sprinkel was ranked third in the April 30 ITA Central Region singles ranking and was selected to the field for the 2015 NCAA Division III Men’s Tennis Championships in Mason, Ohio. He was the fourth Coe player selected to play in three NCAA singles championships. Sprinkel dropped his first round match in the NCAA National Singles Championships on May 21. Facing Emory’s Alex Ruderman, the fourth-ranked player in the nation, Sprinkel lost 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

In doubles, he started the season at the number one position partnered with Riley Galbraith ’16, posting a 7-3 record. Later in the spring, Sprinkel began playing with Ryan Hickman ’16, splitting time between the number one and number two doubles positions. Sprinkel and Hickman combined to post an 11-4 mark.
Sprinkel is the sixth Coe player to be named Iowa Conference MVP, accounting for 12 total honors. He is the first to win three-straight IIAC MVP honors since Coe’s Nick Barnes ’04, who won three straight honors between 2002 and 2004.

Rodgers received IIAC Men’s Tennis Coach of the Year honors for the seventh time overall and the fourth year in succession. He led Coe to a 21-7 record overall and a 7-0 mark in the league, winning the school’s 10th Iowa Conference men’s tennis title. Under his direction, the top-seeded Kohawks defeated fourth-seeded Wartburg, 5-0, and second-seeded Luther, 5-1, to win the Iowa Conference AQ Tournament. Coe advanced to the NCAA Championships, dropping Grinnell, 5-1, in the first round before bowing out to eighth-ranked University of Chicago, 5-1, in a second-round match-up.

Rodgers is also a five-time IIAC Women’s Tennis Coach of the Year (2006-08, 2011-12).

The IIAC also announced the 2015 All-Iowa Conference Men’s Tennis Team. Sixteen individuals were selected to fill the 12 singles and 12 doubles positions with Coe’s Sprinkel, Galbraith, Hickman and Brady Anderson ’18 receiving honors for their play in both singles and doubles. Sprinkel was honored in singles and doubles for the fourth straight year. Galbraith received his third straight IIAC singles honor and his second honor in doubles.

Alex Bernt ’17 earned his second straight IIAC singles honor. Zack Decker ’16 and Chad Moklestad ’17 earned honorable mention honors this year.

Anderson finished the year with a 29-5 singles record and 28-7 doubles record, as he set the single-season school record with 57 victories. He also tied for the second most singles wins in school history. Bernt was 21-7 in singles on the year, while Galbraith was 13-11 in singles and 24-8 in doubles. Hickman went 19-9 in singles, while compiling a career-best 23-8 doubles record. Decker was 10-2 in singles and 13-14 in doubles play, while Moklestad was 18-6 in singles play and 14-11 in doubles.

Coe repeats Bremner Cup victory over Cornell

Coe defeated Linn County rival Cornell 10-7 to claim the third Bremner Cup, an all-sport traveling trophy named in honor of Barron Bremner, a legendary coach and administrator with 42 collective years of service at the two institutions. Coe has now claimed the cup each of the three years since its inception.

The Bremner Cup-clinching victory came at Cornell in men’s outdoor track and field on April 4. The Kohawks were also victorious in head-to-head contests in men’s and women’s tennis, men’s soccer, football, men’s and women’s basketball, wrestling, men’s indoor track and field, and baseball. The Rams prevailed in women’s soccer, men’s and women’s cross country, volleyball, women’s indoor and outdoor track and field, and softball.

Cornell returned to the Midwest Conference in 2012-13, ending a conference relationship with Coe that spanned nearly a century. Both schools were charter members of the Midwest Conference in 1921. They both left the modern-era Midwest Conference after the 1996-97 season and joined the Iowa Conference.

Bremner, who died Feb. 12, 2012, served as athletics director, physical education professor, coach and special assistant to the president. He also served as athletics director, physical education professor, coach and vice president for institutional advancement at Cornell during his 42-year career.

Fourth straight NCAA tournament for women’s tennis

The Coe College women’s tennis season came to an end May 7, as the Kohawks dropped a 5-3 decision to Ohio Northern in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament in Greencastle, Indiana.

The Kohawks finished the season 21-7. Coe earned the automatic berth into the NCAA Regionals by defeating Luther in the IIAC Automatic Qualifier Tournament. This is the sixth appearance in the NCAAs for the Kohawks, as they also qualified in 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Amy Sebastian ’16 was named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District Eight First Team for the second straight year. She also earned CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-American Third Team honors. She was 26-9 in singles this season, while going 8-2 in doubles. For her career, Sebastian is 65-28 in singles and 16-5 in doubles.

Gunderson makes golf history at IIAC Championships

Tyler Gunderson ’15 earned All-Iowa Conference honors at the IIAC Championships on May 2, becoming the first golfer in school history to earn All-IIAC honors four times.

Gunderson finished in a three-way tie for second with a 297, but finished fourth after a playoff. His 297 is the fourth-best 72-hole score in school history. It was Gunderson’s fourth top-five finish of the season.

Central won the team title with a 1,192, while Coe was eighth with a 1,324.

Coe softball players honored

Maliah Fligg ’17 was selected by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) to the All-Midwest Region Third Team. Fligg was one of 361 players to be chosen for the 2015 NFCA Division III All-Region teams and one of 17 Iowa Conference players honored.

Fligg finished the season with 36 hits and a .327 batting average, the second and third most on the team this season, respectively. She also posted the most RBIs by a Kohawk this season with 28 and hit four home runs. On the mound, Fligg had the 20th-best ERA in the region (2.58) and ranked fourth in the region and 84th nationally in walks allowed per seven innings (1.12) with an 8-7 record.

Gretchen Lilienthal ’16 and Haley Smith ’17 were named to the All-Iowa Conference Softball Teams as utility players. It was the first conference honors for both players.

Lilienthal, named to the first team, tied for fifth in the
Melissa Alger ’16 represented Coe at the NCAA’s for the second-straight year.

“Nate has a wealth of knowledge from his time as an assistant coach at some successful programs,” Athletics Director John Chandler said. “We look forward to Nate carrying on the winning tradition of Coe women’s basketball.”

Henderson accepted a job as assistant coach at NCAA Division I North Carolina-Charlotte. She will be reunited with former University of Iowa teammate Cara Consuegra, who is entering her fifth year as head coach.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the growth of the women’s basketball program,” Henderson said. “I will miss this place very much, but feel the opportunity I am pursuing at North Carolina-Charlotte is a great next step for us.”

A two-time Iowa Conference Coach of the Year (2010 & 2011), Henderson led the Kohawks to two Iowa Conference women’s basketball titles. The Kohawks also won the Iowa Conference Tournament Titles in 2011 and 2012, advancing to at least the second round of the NCAA Tournament both years. Coe’s 2010-11 squad set the school record with 26 wins, as they advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

“We wish Randi well in her new coaching opportunity,” Chandler said. “With two Iowa Conference championships and two trips to the NCAA Tournament, Randi elevated our program to one of the best in the Iowa Conference.”

Henderson compiled a 155-91 record in nine seasons at Coe. Her 155 wins are the most wins by a basketball coach at Coe.

“I want to sincerely thank John Chandler for believing in me as a coach and person nine years ago,” Henderson said. “I also want to thank all the parents and players that have blessed my life and allowed me to impact theirs.”

The cupboard is far from bare as the Kohawks lost only one player to graduation from a team that was 18-9 overall and tied for second place in the Iowa Conference. Among the returners, Mickey Hansche ’17 was named to the D3hoops.com All-West Region Third Team, while Aleena Hobbs ’18 was named the D3hoops.com West Region Rookie of the Year. Hansche ranked 10th in the nation with 2.96 3-pointers per game, while ranking fifth in percentage at 45.2. She was the only player in the country to make more than 69 3-pointers while shooting 45 percent or better. Hansche set the school record with 80 3-pointers on the season. She tied her own school and conference record with eight 3-pointers against Luther, while scoring a career-high 28 points against Dubuque. She enters her junior season with 144 3-pointers, the fourth most in school history.

Hobbs recorded four double-doubles on the year. She scored a career-high 21 points against Loras, while grabbing a career-high 13 rebounds against Dubuque. Her 113 free throws made this season were a school record. Her 367 points were the seventh most in school history and the most by a freshman.

Hansche and Hobbs joined Megan Hayes ’15 as first-team All-Iowa Conference selections. Hayes became the 11th player in Iowa Conference history to earn All-IIAC honors four times, as she was a second-team selection each of her first three years.

Hayes was second in the league with 1.57 blocked shots per game. This season, she became the eighth player in school history to score 1,000 career points.

Three Kohawks named to All-IIAC men’s basketball teams

Three Coe College men’s basketball players were named to the 2014-15 All-Iowa Conference teams. The Kohawks had a first-team selection and two on the second team.

Matt Daoust ’15 was named to the first team, while JT Vonderhaar ’15 and Jacob Timm ’16 were named to the second team. It was the first time each player earned postseason conference honors.

Daoust ranked 12th in the league with 13.5 points per game and 14th in rebounding with 4.9 per game. One of the best shooters in the league, Daoust was seventh in 3-point percentage at 41 percent, while he was 12th in field goal percentage at 45.1 percent. He also ranked 12th in steals with .93 per game and 10th in minutes played, averaging 29.21 per game. Daoust scored a career-high 29 points against Simpson on Feb. 18, where he also had his first career double-double with 10 rebounds.

Daoust was also named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District First Team. To be eligible for the team, a student-athlete must have a 3.3 cumulative GPA and have the proper athletic accomplishments to be placed on the ballot.

Vonderhaar was one of five players to rank in Iowa Conference in triples with two. Splitting time at first and second base, she also fielded six double plays this season, tied for seventh-best in the conference.

Smith received second-team honors and started all but two games at catcher and designated player this season. She was second on the team in batting average, hitting .347 in 121 at-bats.

Erin Lang ’17 was named to the CoSIDA/Capital One Academic All-District First Team. Lang is one of five Iowa Conference players to receive honors.

Lang, who is double majoring in math and business administration with a minor in economics, finished the 2015 season with a .357 batting average and recorded 24 stolen bases on 25 attempts, the fourth-most by a Kohawk in a single season in both categories. She also broke Coe’s single game stolen base record with four swipes against Wisconsin-Platteville on April 14.

Coe finished the season with an overall record of 24-16, including a 7-7 record in league play.

Alger qualifies for NCAA Track & Field Championships

Melissa Alger ’16 finished 14th in the discus May 21 at the NCAA National Track & Field Championships in Canton, New York.

Making her second-straight NCAA appearance, Alger’s first throw was a foul before her second throw of 141’ 1” (42.94m), but fell short of making the finals. Alger entered the championships with the eighth best throw in the nation at 155’ 4” (47.35m), the school record she set at the Central Triangular.

The two-time Iowa Conference Discus Champion returns for the Kohawks next year, as she looks to gain All-American honors for the second time after her fifth place finish in 2014. Alger won the discus title at five meets during the outdoor season this year, including the Iowa Conference Championship.

On the men’s side, Christopher Hawkins ’18 won the Iowa Conference triple jump with a leap of 45’ 0.25” (13.72m).

Women’s basketball seeks new direction

Nate Oakland was named head coach of the Kohawk women’s basketball program after Randi (Peterson) Henderson resigned to pursue other coaching opportunities. Oakland comes to Coe after spending the past four years as an assistant coach at Wartburg College, where he was also head coach for the men’s golf team for three years.

Prior to working at Wartburg, Oakland spent two years on the staff at Coe as an assistant to Henderson. Oakland also spent three years as an assistant coach at Northern Iowa and one season as the assistant coach at Minnesota-Morris.

“We wish Randi well in her new coaching opportunity,” Chandler said. “With two Iowa Conference championships and two trips to the NCAA Tournament, Randi elevated our program to one of the best in the Iowa Conference.”

Henderson compiled a 155-91 record in nine seasons at Coe. Her 155 wins are the most wins by a basketball coach at Coe.

“I want to sincerely thank John Chandler for believing in me as a coach and person nine years ago,” Henderson said. “I also want to thank all the parents and players that have blessed my life and allowed me to impact theirs.”

The cupboard is far from bare as the Kohawks lost only one player to graduation from a team that was 18-9 overall and tied for second place in the Iowa Conference. Among the returners, Mickey Hansche ’17 was named to the D3hoops.com All-West Region Third Team, while Aleena Hobbs ’18 was named the D3hoops.com West Region Rookie of the Year. Hansche ranked 10th in the nation with 2.96 3-pointers per game, while ranking fifth in percentage at 45.2. She was the only player in the country to make more than 69 3-pointers while shooting 45 percent or better. Hansche set the school record with 80 3-pointers on the season. She tied her own school and conference record with eight 3-pointers against Luther, while scoring a career-high 28 points against Dubuque. She enters her junior season with 144 3-pointers, the fourth most in school history.

Hobbs recorded four double-doubles on the year. She scored a career-high 21 points against Loras, while grabbing a career-high 13 rebounds against Dubuque. Her 111 free throws made this season were a school record. Her 367 points were the seventh most in school history and the most by a freshman.

Hansche and Hobbs joined Megan Hayes ’15 as first-team All-Iowa Conference selections. Hayes became the 11th player in Iowa Conference history to earn All-IIAC honors four times, as she was a second-team selection each of her first three years.

Hayes was second in the league with 1.57 blocked shots per game. This season, she became the eighth player in school history to score 1,000 career points.
the top eight in the league in both scoring and rebounding. He tied his career high in rebounds twice during the season with 12 at Central on Jan. 24 and at Simpson on Feb. 18. He also tied a career-high in assists with four against Buena Vista on Feb. 21. This season he became the 17th player in school history to score 1,000 career points. Despite missing Coe’s final four regular season games and the first-round tournament game against Dubuque, Timm was named to the second team. Due to the injury, Timm fell a game short of meeting the league minimum to be in the final statistical rankings. His 2.1 assist-to-turnover ratio would have been third in the league, while his 3.0 assists per game would have been fourth. He was one of the best shooters in the league on top of dishing out the ball, as he would have been sixth in 3-point percentage at 42.1 percent. He scored a career high 23 points at Dubuque on Feb. 7, while grabbing a career-high 12 rebounds against Luther on Jan. 17.

The Kohawks finished the regular season 16-10 overall and 10-4 in the Iowa Conference. Coe placed second in the Iowa Conference standings, while earning a first-round bye and advancing to the semifinals of the Iowa Conference Tournament.

Coe women break records, close out season hosting Liberal Arts Championships

Records fell as the Coe swimming and diving teams wrapped up the 2014-15 season hosting the Liberal Arts Championships. The women finished the championships in fourth-place out of eleven teams and the men were ninth out of nine.

On the women’s side, Sam Fitzgerald ’18 made the most noise for the Kohawks, breaking the school record in the 100-yard breaststroke that she set earlier in the season with a time of 1:06.53 in the preliminaries, nearly three seconds faster than her previous record. She then went on to break the record again in the finals in 1:05.80 and grab the top spot on the podium to become the first Kohawk to win a Liberal Arts event since Colleen Fowler ’09 won the 1-meter and 3-meter dives in 2009 and the first Kohawk swimmer to win a Liberal Arts Championship since Megan Verbrugge Peterson ’08 won the 200-yard individual medley in 2006. Fitzgerald’s time was also the pool record and the Liberal Arts record for the 100-yard breaststroke.

In the 200-yard breaststroke preliminaries, Fitzgerald broke the school record that she had set earlier in the season with a time of 2:26.95. In the finals, Fitzgerald bested her time once again, this time in 2:24.84.

Kendall Bundy ’17 broke the school record in the 200-yard backstroke preliminaries with a time of 2:13.62. Bundy then went on to break the record again in the finals in 2:11.82 for a fifth-place finish. Bundy set the school record in the 100-yard backstroke preliminaries with a time of 1:00.53. She then went on to place fourth in the finals in 1:01.12.

Bundy and Fitzgerald, along with Kenni Sterns ’15 and Lindsay Meade ’15, beat the school record in the 200-yard medley relay by over four seconds for a third-place finish with a time of 1:50.62. Katie King ’17, joined Bundy, Fitzgerald and Meade to set the school record 400-yard medley relay with fourth-place finish in 4:08.18, shattering the previous record set in 2001 by over three seconds.

Jasmine Deng ’18 qualified for the NCAA Regional Championships with a pair of second-place finishes in the 1- and 3-meter dives. At the regionals in San Antonio, she scored 325.30 for a 10th-place finish out of 18 divers in the 1-meter dive. Deng posted a score of 366.90 in the 3-meter dive, good enough for a fifth-place finish out of 15 divers.

The Kohawk women finished with 368.5 team points for fourth place. After a successful first season as head coach, Brian Ruffles was named the Liberal Arts Championships women’s swimming coach of the year.

Kohawk women honored by USTFCCCA

The Coe College women’s cross country team earned All-Academic Team honors from the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association for its classroom performance this past season.

The Kohawks were one of 211 teams to be recognized by the USTFCCCA. In order for a program to be eligible, the student-athletes must have compiled a cumulative GPA of at least 3.10 and the team must have competed in at least five different meets with at least five runners representing their school at each.

The Coe women were one of seven Iowa Conference schools to be honored as an All-Academic Team. As a team, the Kohawks posted a cumulative GPA of 3.44 through the fall of 2014. The Kohawk women were also honored by the USTFCCCA in 2013 and 2011.

19 Kohawks named to winter Academic All-Iowa Conference team

Coe College placed 19 student-athletes on the winter Academic All-Iowa Conference team. Four different Kohawk teams were represented on the list, as Coe had the second most selections of any school in the league.

To be eligible for IIAC All-Academic team honors, a student-athlete must compete at the varsity level, be at least a sophomore in academic standing, have at least one academic year in residence and attain a 3.5 or better grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

The Kohawk men’s basketball team had nine honorees, while the men’s swimming and diving team had five. Both were the most of any school for their respective sports. Academic All-Conference honorees listed by sport were: men’s basketball – Matt Daoust ’15, David Delgado ’15, Caleb Miller ’15, Hunter Pflughaupt ’17, Sean Pyritz ’15, Sam Stix ’15, JT Vonderhaar ’15, Matt Vonderhaar ’17 and Brian Wadsworth ’15; women’s basketball – Maddie Koolbeck ’17 and Logan Lynch ’17; men’s swimming and diving – Ossama Abu-Halawa ’17, Andy Cheng ’17, Tucker Dangremont ’17, Andrew Koehler ’17 and Justin Sauter ’16; women’s swimming and diving – Katy Appler ’17, Lindsay Meade ’15 and Kenni Sterns ’15.

Sam Fitzgerald ’18 set pool and meet records in the 100-yard breaststroke while becoming Coe’s first Liberal Arts champion since 2009.
Coe College will resurface the track and make other significant improvements at Clark Field this summer to benefit both student-athletes and spectators. The $900,000 project is the first phase of an anticipated multi-million dollar renovation and expansion of the college’s athletic facilities over the next few years.

The centerpiece of this project will be a new track surface from Beynon Sports Surfaces. Beynon’s premier track and field surfaces are found in the world’s most renowned athletic facilities, carrying some of the world’s greatest champions to record-breaking times. Coe is installing the BSS 1000 – a 13 mm full pour polyurethane surface that allows athletes to perform at their highest level while in training or in competition. Its bio-engineered force reduction layer integrates very fine SBR rubber granules with environmentally friendly polyurethane to create an impermeable shock-absorbing cushion. The durable surface is designed to resist the roughest weather and the toughest competition.

To enhance track and field competition, the Clark Field project will also include a new long jump/triple jump runway, a new “D” zone for high jump and pole vault, and a new hammer/discus cage and throwing area. New hurdles, high jump pads and meet management equipment will complement the facilities project.

Two large sections of bleachers will be constructed to accommodate Kohawk fans, creating 500 additional seats to increase spectator capacity by 50 percent on the home side of the stadium. The field will be enclosed by a new fence to provide better control of the facility, complete with a perimeter sidewalk.

“The new track surface and facility improvements for field events will provide Coe track and field athletes with first-rate facilities for decades to come,” said Athletics Director John Chandler. “These enhancements to Clark Field demonstrate Coe’s continuing commitment to provide top-quality facilities for its student-athletes and a welcoming environment for Kohawk supporters.”

Clark Field was built in 1989 due to the generosity of Coe’s largest benefactor, K. Raymond Clark ’30. When he died in 2005, Clark left virtually his entire estate to his alma mater, with total contributions to Coe exceeding $33.9 million. The original Clark Field project included the construction of the football/soccer field, softball diamond, track and stadium, as well as the adjoining Clark Racquet Center. Recent improvements to Clark Field include the addition of lighting in 2014 and the installation of synthetic FieldTurf in 2007.

In the fall, Coe leaders plan to unveil future phases of a comprehensive project to expand and renovate the college’s athletic facilities. Coe’s vision is to create the best overall facilities in the Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for athletics, recreation and fitness.

Removal of the old track at Clark Field began in May as the college launched a $900,000 resurfacing project.
FAMILY FIRST FOR KERNELS CREW

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE FEW PLACES MORE FAMILY FRIENDLY THAN A MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM.

That is certainly true in Coe’s hometown, especially for one family with strong ties to the college.

“My wife and I would barely see each other if she didn’t work here,” said newly promoted Cedar Rapids Kernels General Manager Scott Wilson ’91. It may only be a few minutes here and there, perhaps sharing a hot dog for dinner, but it is time spent together.

With Wilson overseeing day-to-day operations at Veterans Memorial Stadium, Karen Kennedy Wilson ’92 and the couple’s four children have each carved out a game day niche.

“You want people you can depend on,” said Karen, who works as administrative assistant to the Coe Music Department by day and oversees the inflatables play area at the stadium during Kernels games.

Fifteen-year-old daughter Kennedy is in her third season as a face painter at Sunday afternoon games. Daughter Bailey, a junior at Crown College in Minneapolis, works in the souvenir shop during the summer. Even 11-year-old Noah helps out in exchange for later bed time so he can read more.

“Noah does not want to be a bat boy,” Scott noted. “His focus in life, when he gets the opportunity, is to be a hawker.”

From serving as bat boy to performing as Kernels mascot Mr. Shucks to cleaning up after games, there’s little Keenan Wilson ’15 hasn’t done at the ballpark.

“I love working for the Kernels,” Keenan said. “You get to watch baseball while getting paid.”

Keenan will spend this summer working security at the stadium before substitute teaching in the fall while he weighs his options to join a national choir or go to graduate school. As long as he’s in the area, summers will be spent with his family and the Kernels, the Class A affiliate of the Minnesota Twins.

“We don’t get to see each other much if we don’t go to the games,” he said.

A music major at Coe, Keenan enjoyed the rare luxury of time with his mom at school and at work. “The Music Department is small and family-like anyway,” he said. “But having your mom there is nice.”

Singing the national anthem before Kernels games, often on a moment’s notice, is his favorite job at the stadium. Working in concessions or on the operations crew are not his cup of tea.

“How filthy people can be at baseball games is really sad,” he said.

Hearing her kids sing the national anthem are some of Karen’s favorite ballpark memories. She even sang it with Keenan, Bailey and Kennedy before a Kernels’ playoff game a few years ago, creating another great Wilson family baseball memory.

Scott spent the bulk of his time away from the family during a 15-year retail career with Kmart, Linens ‘n’ Things, Kirklands and Harry & David. The family had lived in six different Midwestern cities when he and Karen decided it was time to come home.

In 2006, he saw the Kernels were looking for a director of operations. Despite lacking a background in sports management, he applied and was hired.

“I just figured if I could manage 21 stores worth $65 million, I could do this job,” he said. He has since brought all of his family on board.

“We were hearing stories about what was going on out there, but we couldn’t see,” Karen said.

Now that Scott and the other injured staffers have all recovered, fun family times have returned. It helps that Scott and Karen acquired a love of baseball attending games at the old Veterans Memorial Stadium while growing up. Now they’ve passed that fondness for the game on to their kids.

“I didn’t like baseball or know much about it when I got here,” Keenan said. “I really do like baseball now.”
President David McInally conferred Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts in Teaching degrees on 280 graduates at Coe’s Commencement ceremony on May 10. Cedar Rapids community leader Nancy Hamblin Evans ’71 delivered the commencement address and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. During her address, Evans discussed what she has learned from her own involvement in a variety of organizations. She encouraged the graduates to use their Coe liberal arts educational experiences as the springboard to become actively involved in their own communities. “The world is full of complex, difficult, challenging problems, and you shouldn’t let the things you can’t do get in the way of the things you can do,” said Evans. “You can make a difference.”

Evans received her bachelor’s in American studies from Coe and earned a law degree at the University of Iowa in 1974. She began her career as an assistant Linn County attorney, then taught at Coe over the course of more than 30 years. From 1996-2000, Evans served Cedar Rapids as public safety commissioner. She has been actively involved as a community volunteer and board member for many organizations. She is currently chairwoman of the Cedar Rapids Civil Service Commission. On a national level, Evans has served as president of the Association of Junior Leagues and was a judge for President Clinton’s National Service Awards.

Evans has been recognized with the Women of Influence Award, the Women’s Equality Day Award, the State Department of Corrections Citizen of the Year, and the YMCA Tribute to Women in Business and Industry. She has twice received the Governor’s Volunteer Award. In recognition of her accomplishments and service to the college, Evans received the Coe Alumni Award of Merit in 1996. She and her husband, Jack Evans ’70, met during their Coe years and both have been actively involved in the Cedar Rapids community ever since.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, an associate professor of New Testament at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, delivered this year’s Baccalaureate sermon on May 9. This fall, she will be joining the faculty of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as associate professor of New Testament. Aymer was previously awarded an honorary doctorate at Coe in 2006, and she received the Distinguished Service Award at Commencement for her work as a teacher, scholar, preacher and champion for social justice.

A prolific writer of articles and Bible studies, Aymer has authored “Repairers of the Breach: Five Bible Studies on Social Justice Issues in New Orleans in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina” (2008); the commentary on the Acts of the Apostles in the “Women’s Bible Commentary” (2013); and several exegetical essays for “Feasting on the Word,” “Lectionary Homiletics” and The Huffington Post. She has written a series of studies on the Lenten lectionary for Year C in “New Proclamation: Year C, 2009-2010.”

Her Bible study “Confessing the Beatitudes,” written for Horizons Magazine of Presbyterian Women, received the Award of Excellence (2011) from the Associated Church Press. She is the co-editor of the “Fortress Commentary on the New Testament” (2014) and the forthcoming (fall 2015) “Islands, Islanders and the Bible: Ruminations.” In addition, Aymer’s monograph “James: Diaspora Rhetorics of a Friend of God” is due out in the fall from Sheffield Phoenix.
Alumni Association Outstanding Senior Award recipients Nicole Johnson '15 and Brian Wadsworth '15.

Before listening to their grandmother’s Commencement address, these future Kohawks played in front of Stewart Memorial Library. The three boys are (from left) Andrew and Sam Evans, sons of Matthew and Kate Evans, and Jacob Evans, son of Will and Amy Evans. The boys are the grandsons of Jack Evans ’70 and Nancy Hamblin Evans ’71.

Connor Roth ’15 received her diploma from her mother, former Assistant to the Vice President for Advancement Nancy Roth.

Outstanding Senior Nursing Student Kelsey Lorenzen ’15 at the nursing pinning ceremony.

This year’s graduating class raised $7,570 for a permeable pavement patio to be installed by Hickok Hall. President David McInally accepted the gift from Senior Class Gift Committee members Nina Johnson ’15, Kathryn Flemming ’15, Loxley Grafe ’15, Delaney Cummings ’15, Hannah Vanourney ’15, Alexis Kombwa ’15, Emma Kelly ’15 and Megan Hurlbert ’15.

Ryan Lechtenberg ’15 adds his name to the rolls of Phi Beta Kappa. Coe is one of five private colleges and universities in Iowa to host a chapter of the nation’s oldest and most widely recognized honorary society.
Justin Jagodinsky '15 graduated summa cum laude. He also received the DeJong Biology Research Award. He was recognized at Honors Convocation by Heins-Johnson Professor of Biology Harlo Hadow along with Outstanding Biology Senior Award winners Chas Messer '15, Kayla Rohr '15, Ryan Lechtenberg '15 and Bryan Eder '15.

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer delivered the Baccalaureate sermon.

Members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia music fraternity serenaded mothers in attendance after Commencement.

Commencement platform party members (left to right) Chaplain Kristin Hutson, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Aymer, President David McInally, Board of Trustees Chairman Dave Carson '72, Trustee Liza Ovrom '75, Dean of the Faculty Marie Baehr and Nancy Hamblin Evans '71.

The Mother’s Day Commencement ceremony had extra meaning for Assistant to the Athletic Director Melinda Behounek, who presented diplomas to her son Michael Behounek '15 and daughter Molly Behounek '15.

AJ Reuter '15 received his diploma from his mother, Assistant to the Director of Health Services Teresa Reuter.
“THE WORLD IS FULL OF COMPLEX, DIFFICULT, CHALLENGING PROBLEMS, AND YOU SHOULDN’T LET THE THINGS YOU CAN’T DO GET IN THE WAY OF THE THINGS YOU CAN DO. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

NANCY HAMBLIN EVANS ’71
A student-faculty research project that drew heavily on the resources of a local museum has unearthed a rich chapter of Cedar Rapids history.

Coe students Mia Phifer ’15 and Cinnamon Moore ’16 collaborated with Associate Professor of History Brie Swenson Arnold and staff from the African American Museum of Iowa (AAMI) to develop a historical tour of important black history sites in Cedar Rapids. Among 16 sites identified in the tour are four residences, three schools (including Coe), two churches, barber and beauty shops, a cemetery, a factory, a park, a skating rink and the Oak Hill neighborhood.

The student-faculty research team worked closely with Brianna Wright ’10, the curator of the AAMI, which is conveniently located in Cedar Rapids just two miles from Coe. A history major with a minor in religion at Coe, Wright earned her master’s in museum studies from George Washington University in 2012. After working as an independent contractor with the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., she returned to Cedar Rapids in 2013.

Wright said she is thrilled about the museum’s partnership with Coe and the resulting self-guided historical tour. “We’ve never offered this kind of experience to our visitors before and are always looking for new ways to extend learning opportunities into the community,” she said. “We hope that by offering the tour, our visitors will continue their education about Iowa’s African American history beyond the walls of the museum.”

The tour developed in response to a gap in information and public commemoration of the early African American history of Cedar Rapids. While the city’s late 20th century black history has been well documented and recognized, much less is known about its 19th and early 20th century counterpart. Using census records, city directories, newspapers, and the archival collections of the museum and the college, Swenson Arnold and her African American history class have

LEFT: With Assistant Professor of History Brie Swenson Arnold, Coe students Cinnamon Moore ’16 and Mia Phifer ’15 were among the only undergraduate presenters at the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 16.

RIGHT: African American Museum of Iowa Curator Brianna Wright ’10.
located and pieced together many of the extraordinary stories of black men and women who settled in Cedar Rapids between 1865 and 1915.

Phifer and Moore joined Swenson Arnold in presenting their draft of the tour at the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History (NCPH) in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 16. They were among the only undergraduate students presenting at the conference attended by nearly 1,000 professionals. The NCPH is the nation’s leading professional organization dedicated to putting history into practice at historic sites, academic institutions and museums.

It all began as a classroom project on the African American history of Cedar Rapids in the 1890s. It then expanded into a summer-long, grant-funded student-faculty research project. Swenson Arnold, with Moore and Phifer, received funding last summer through the Ella Pochobradsky Endowment for Faculty/Student Research program to support “Foundations of Prosperity: African American Life, Work, and Activism in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Cedar Rapids, Iowa.”

The summer research resulted in a recent scholarly journal article by Swenson Arnold in which Phifer and Moore are also credited. In her article published in the Annals of Iowa this spring, Swenson Arnold offers an account of an unsuccessful effort by seven African American women to break the color line at a garment factory in Cedar Rapids in 1897. Swenson Arnold sets that effort thoroughly in the context of the experience of African American and Bohemian American working-class women in the city at the turn of the 20th century.

Following the end of slavery and the Civil War, thousands of African Americans left the South and ventured north to Iowa and other places in the Midwest. While there were just over 1,000 African Americans in Iowa in 1860, by 1870 there were nearly 6,000 black residents; by the close of World War I, there were more than 19,000 black Iowans. This trend was also visible in Cedar Rapids. Although no black people lived in the city prior to 1865, by 1870 there were at least 50 (and probably closer to 100) black residents; by 1880, there were 200 and 1,000 by 1915.

On the whole, African Americans seem to have found somewhat better opportunities in Cedar Rapids. In the late 19th century, Iowa’s public schools were racially integrated; the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in several important cases that the 14th Amendment should be interpreted broadly to accord equal access in public transportation; theaters and restaurants were generally open to all; blacks and whites could openly marry and raise families together; residential neighborhoods were integrated; and African Americans routinely achieved home ownership.

While these were real advantages compared to conditions elsewhere, black men and women still found aspects of their everyday lives and economic opportunities circumscribed by race. As in other northern locales, employment was one of the primary areas in which African Americans faced discrimination in Cedar Rapids.

Yet, in the process of settling in Cedar Rapids, African Americans found many ways to challenge “the color line” and to create strong black communities rooted in the living memory of slavery, extensive family ties and stronger economic foundations. They migrated to new and unknown places seeking a better life; became part of predominantly white communities while simultaneously building up black churches, businesses and organizations; and maneuvered within the boundaries of racial restriction to claim and secure new rights and opportunities.

The tour highlighting these stories will be launched for the greater Cedar Rapids community within the next few months. The project was also subject of a Common Hour presentation at Coe and several conference presentations.

“It has been a perfect marriage of classroom learning, academic research and community involvement,” said Swenson Arnold, who specializes in U.S. social, cultural and political history and teaches courses in African American history, women’s history, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and early American history.

Swenson Arnold will continue working with the museum to make the tour more accessible through online audio files and pamphlets. Moore and Phifer are proud of their work on the project, which is more...
Pulitzer Prize-winning global health authority Laurie Garrett had harsh words for vaccination opponents and the American media at the 12th Coe College Contemporary Issues Forum on March 17.

The only person to win the three P’s of journalism—the Pulitzer, the Polk, and the Peabody—Garrett explained the science behind new threats to global health, and navigated the politics that help, and hinder, how we prepare and how we respond to them.

“We are globalizing risks and globalizing threats, but we have not globalized the tools to protect ourselves – the vaccines, the treatments, the drugs, the protective gear,” Garrett said. “We come out of one epidemic after another with the same laundry list. Where is the diagnostics? Where is surveillance capacity? Where is the vaccine? Where is the treatment? We seem to not learn the lesson epidemic after epidemic after epidemic.”

In a fast-paced presentation postponed due to inclement weather on Feb. 3, Garrett traced the history of epidemics from the Black Death in Florence in 1348 to Ebola in West Africa and a measles outbreak in the United States late last year. “Of course, one of the lessons that you learn when you study epidemics is that humans always blame other humans,” she said.

The HIV and AIDS epidemic that emerged in the 1980s is a prime example as it was largely ignored in the United States and many places in the world because the primary victims were gay men. “It reshaped the demographics of society much the same ways as had been done by the Black Death,” Garrett said.

When Ebola broke out in Zaire in 1995, “we were no better off really than we had been in 1976.
for the first epidemic.” Despite 18 smaller Ebola outbreaks since 1995, “we still have no rapid diagnostic, no surveillance tools, no vaccine, no treatment, no progress in the research community and in the pharmaceutical community.”

Being poor countries with little health care infrastructure makes places like Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea susceptible to Ebola outbreaks, Garrett said. There are two to 10 doctors per 100,000 people in those West African countries while there are 245 physicians for every 100,000 people in the United States.

“So far we’ve dodged a pandemic bullet, but the day will come,” Garrett said. “We either get it together and understand that it’s in all of our interests to create stronger disease surveillance and response capacity everywhere in the world, in the very poorest countries in the world, or every single time we’re going to go through this same song and dance, over and over again.”

Garrett blames the 24/7 media cycle for stirring up hysterical fear of diseases like Ebola. “Our response to the epidemic was so disproportionately about our own fears as Americans and the same is true in Europe to a lesser degree,” she said.

In October, the Gallup Poll compared Americans’ fear of Ebola to 2009 concerns about swine flu. In each case, about a third of the population worried about contracting the disease, although there were only six known cases of Ebola in the United States versus 34 million swine flu cases.

“The level of real risk was wildly different in terms of how we reacted,” Garrett said. “A lot of it has to do with fearfulness and media.”

“One of the common themes you will see throughout history about disease is that when disease seems to suddenly be something very new and very scary, the social reaction is basically uniform,” Garrett said. “I think we are programmed to be fearful of disease as Homo sapiens.”

The growing anti-vaccine movement across the country is why we’re seeing the return of diseases like measles that had been all but eradicated, she said.

The lowest vaccination rates in the country are in Southern California near Disneyland, where one infected visitor passed measles on to 173 people across the United States. “We’ve exported at least five cases to Mexico and, most recently, it was discovered we exported a huge outbreak to Canada,” Garrett said. “Canada now has about 120 cases confirmed, all because of one unvaccinated student.”

And while the media flames the Ebola fear, it is far less contagious than measles, she said.

Garrett cautioned that the next vaccine-preventable disease threatening North America is whooping cough or pertussis. “The majority of all whooping cough on the planet earth is in the United States of America today,” she said.

Garrett has been a widely sought media commentator on the Ebola crisis as well as the recent measles outbreak. A former award-winning science reporter for NPR and Newsday, Garrett regularly writes for many publications, including Foreign Affairs, Esquire, Vanity Fair, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post and Current Issues in Public Health. She has appeared frequently on national television programs, including “Nightline,” “NewsHour with Jim Lehrer,” “The Charlie Rose Show,” “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “Dateline” and “Meet the Press.”

A senior fellow for Global Health at the Council on Foreign Relations, Garrett is the best-selling author of “The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance” and “Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health.” Her latest book is “I Heard The Sirens Scream: How Americans Responded to the 9/11 and Anthrax Attacks.” Over the years, she has also contributed chapters to numerous books, including “AIDS in the World” and “Disease in Evolution: Global Changes and Emergence of Infectious Diseases.”

Established by the late K. Raymond Clark ‘30, the Contemporary Issues Forum presents the views of distinguished leaders whose work has shaped and altered the course of world events. The forum has featured former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, former Poland President Lech Walesa, deep-sea oceanographer Robert Ballard, civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, “Doonesbury” cartoonist Garry Trudeau, ecology expert Jared Diamond, documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Leonard Pitts, celebrated author Sir Salman Rushdie, and former Senate Majority Leader and Special Envoy George Mitchell.
In Cedar Rapids and across Iowa, secondary teachers trained at Coe are taking innovative approaches to increasing student interest and achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM for short).

At Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School, Charlie Goetzinger ’11 and Andrew Boone ’11 comprise two-thirds of a team that combines instruction in math, science and language arts with project-based learning. The Option program gives freshman participants the ability to learn at their own pace.

“We don’t necessarily go by the traditional school schedule,” said Goetzinger.

The program utilizes tablets allowing students to access class units online. “Technology allows us to free kids to move at their own pace,” said Boone.

Once students have mastered the curriculum in the three subjects, they are free to work on group projects reflecting their interests. The projects must be interdisciplinary, relevant and connected to the community.

This year’s projects include a culinary group planting a school garden with the resulting produce donated to charity. A healthcare group is working with the Iowa Blue Zones Project to make Jefferson a designated Blue Zones School.

“Ninety percent of project ideas are generated by students,” said Boone.

Goetzinger and Boone are hopeful project outcomes will allow the Options program to expand into a second group of 90 students with three teachers next year. With the support and backing of the Jefferson administration, the teachers have been able to develop the program on the go.

“We are so different now than we were day one,”
Goetzinger said. Boone excelled in mathematics at Coe and graduated cum laude. He draws heavily on Coe mentors like Associate Professor of Mathematics Jon White ’90 in challenging his high school students to think about math. “I feel like I channel my inner Jon White on a daily basis,” he said.

Goetzinger combined a physics major with a teaching endorsement in mathematics. “This combination of science and math expertise is particularly valuable for STEM teaching,” said Professor of Education Roger Johanson.

Goetzinger said he tries to establish personal relationships with his students as his Coe professors did with him. Those relationships continue, as Physics Professor Steve Feller has visited Jefferson to talk to Goetzinger’s students.

Megan Olson Hanson ’09, an eighth grade math teacher at Cedar Rapids Prairie Point Middle School, was one of the first teachers in the area to “flip” her classroom. Algebra students receive instruction at home through online videos of Hanson teaching. That frees time in the classroom for applying what students have learned on algebra problems. “It has worked well,” she said.

Next year, she plans to introduce a modified flip with lots of video instruction, self-paced learning and project-based work. She also sits on a task force charged with moving the College Community School District to a competency-based educational system within a decade.

“College Community is at the forefront of a lot of things,” she said.

A math major at Coe, Hanson knew she wanted to be a teacher her sophomore year when she took a human relations course with Assistant Professor of Education Christy Wolfe. Both programs prepared her well for a career as a middle school math teacher, she said.

This coming academic year, she will teach the secondary math methods course at Coe.

After substitute teaching in Wisconsin, Keelie Finnel Schroeder ’12 completed her first year as a seventh grade math teacher in Storm Lake, Iowa. The return to Iowa meant a return to Common Core, which she had learned about at Coe but hadn’t used as a substitute teacher.

“Iowa dove in head first,” Schroeder said. “It allows you to go deeper into topics instead of skimming across topics.”

The Storm Lake School District is digging deeper into the Common Core and working to align it with all instruction and assessments.

A fan of technology, Schroeder makes full use of the Smart Board in her classroom, as students use cell phone-like clickers to text answers and receive instant feedback.

“It really engages the students,” she said. “It helps identify which students need extra support.”

While math came easy in high school, Schroeder needed encouragement from Wolfe and White to major in math at Coe. Now that she’s a math teacher, she’s glad she did.

“It really gives me a broader picture,” she said. “I’m able to prepare my kids better for what they will see in the future.”

Although she’s a volunteer assistant to her husband, Buena Vista University Head Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and Track and Field Coach Ryan Schroeder ’11, she treasures her Coe experience.

“I’m very thankful for the education I got at Coe,” Schroeder said. “Christy Wolfe and Jon White did so much to help me be the teacher I am today.”

Below, left to right:

Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School science teacher Charlie Goetzinger ’11 assists a student accessing curriculum online.

A math teacher at Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School, Andrew Boone ’11 is one of three teachers in the school’s innovative Options program for freshmen.

Megan Olson Hanson ’09, an eighth grade math teacher at Cedar Rapids Prairie Point Middle School, with fellow Kohawk Eric Dohmen ’14, who was assigned to student teach with her.

Keelie Finnel Schroeder ’12 feels at home in her math classroom at Storm Lake Middle School.
Ministries. She has served on the UCM board since December 2013, when she retired from George Washington University as counseling professor emerita.

Dr. James Murphy of Escondido, California, has opened a private breastfeeding clinic after retiring from government service. He served 25 years of active duty and 16 years as a civilian pediatrician with the Navy.

Anne Kyle Robles closed her AKR Computer Consulting company in June 2014 and moved to Guatemala with her husband.

Tim Mauldin of Norman, Oklahoma, has been appointed to serve as one of three members of the Oklahoma State Election Board. He is the only Democrat selected by Republican Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin to serve on the Election Board.

Ron Barnes of Chicago has written a book titled “Practice What You Preach, Preach What You Practice” to be published in September.


Lori Sturdevant of St. Paul, Minnesota, won a Minnesota Book Award on April 18 for her book “Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women’s Movement.”

Squib Collins of Downers Grove, Illinois, received a Certificate of Appreciation from the state of Illinois for his participation in the Illinois Veterans History Project.

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William Brengel III of Wrentham, Massachusetts, is general manager for the spray polyurethane foam insulation and roofing materials business Bayer Material Science.

Julie Tostenson Birkey of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, is marketing director at Grand Rapids State Bank.

'93 Chad Kepros of North Liberty, Iowa, was appointed judge of Iowa’s Sixth Judicial District, which includes Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Tama counties. He has been a lawyer with Bray and Klockau in Iowa City since 1996 and had previously been nominated twice for vacancies on the bench.

'94 20TH CLUSTER REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

'95 20TH CLUSTER REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

'96 20TH CLUSTER REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

Todd Bloomquist of Chicago has been promoted to vice president, deputy general counsel and assistant secretary of Beam Suntory Inc., the world’s third largest premium spirits company.

Eric Haugee of St. Paul, Minnesota, is child care aware specialist for the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

DaNel Hogan of Tucson, Arizona, is STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) coordinator for the Pima County School superintendent.

2000s

'00 15TH CLUSTER REUNION: HOMECOMING 2016

'01 15TH CLUSTER REUNION: HOMECOMING 2016

Scott Shoemaker of Cedar Rapids passed the Iowa bar exam and opened a new law practice.

'02 15TH CLUSTER REUNION: HOMECOMING 2016

HAVE NEWS?

Information compiled in “Class Notes” comes from a variety of sources, including direct correspondence from alumni, clipping services and news releases. The college received these class notes by May 1. The deadline for the fall issue is Oct. 1. Announcements older than one year at the time they are submitted will not be published.

Please follow these basic guidelines when submitting information:

News

At least the following basic information should be provided with any submission: name and class year, spouse name and class year if Coe alum, city and state of residence, and your news. Please spell out acronyms. Milestones (anniversaries, birthdays, etc.) will be noted only in five-year increments (25th, 30th, etc.)

Marriages and Anniversaries

Marriages and Anniversaries — Include both spouses’ full names (including birth/maiden names, where applicable) and complete date. Please notify us after your wedding; we cannot publish based on an engagement announcement.

Births and Adoptions

Include child’s first name, legal names of parents (mother’s birth/maiden names, where applicable) and complete date. Please notify us after your wedding; we cannot publish based on an engagement announcement.

Deaths

Include full name, complete date and city/state of residence at time of death. Please include a newspaper obituary, if possible.

Photos

Digital photos must be at least 300 dpi when sized to 3.75 inches wide. Please save the file as a TIFF or JPEG file. We must have the photographer’s permission to print a copyrighted photo. Please indicate if you would like prints returned.

Submit information to: Courier editor at courier@coe.edu or phone (319) 399-8613 or fax (319) 399-8210. Mail to 1220 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Information may also be submitted online at our new online community Always A Kohawk. Visit http://alumni.coe.edu to register or login.
Zachary Pfantz was named head football coach for Bondurant-Ferrar High School in central Iowa. He and Stacy Carson Pfantz ’05 will be relocating from Ottumwa, where he was head football coach for four years.

‘05 10TH REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

‘06 10TH REUNION: OCT. 15-18, 2015

‘08 Jessica Fraghia of Chicago is the administrator for Development Solutions Inc.

2010s

‘11 Austin Mow, a third-year law student at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, won two jury trials and a case before the Iowa Supreme Court before graduating from law school. On April 3, the Court ruled in favor of his client, Archaletta Young, whose sentence for theft in 2012 was enhanced to an aggravated misdemeanor based on prior misdemeanor convictions. In the 2003 case, Young pled guilty without the assistance of an attorney. Young’s case (and Mow’s argument) was supported by the Court because the earlier conviction occurred without the benefit of counsel advising her of her rights. The decision impacts practicing law in Iowa because it will require prosecutors to carefully consider when to proceed with enhancements based on prior offenses, and judges to document whether people pleading guilty to misdemeanors have waived their right to counsel. Mow was offered the opportunity to argue before the Iowa Supreme Court through an internship with the Appellate Defenders Office.

‘12 Paden Chang is currently stationed in Moldova, where he works with small business enterprises and national initiatives. Upon completion of his Peace Corps service in July, he will pursue his master’s in public policy at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary.

Dani Lissner of Medford, Wisconsin, earned her master’s in addiction counseling from Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies.

Chelsea White has accepted the position of AmeriCorps VISTA for Iowa College Aid and Marshalltown Community College in Marshalltown, Iowa. It is her third position as an AmeriCorps VISTA service member.

‘13 Chelsea Marlow of Anchorage, Alaska, is president of the Alaska State Society.
Here is a snapshot of some of the successes with the inaugural Day of Giving on April 16. Thanks to all who donated, tweeted, posted and shared their love for Coe on #KohawkDay. If you were not able to participate, there is still time to give before the fiscal year ends on June 30. Go to www.alumni.coe.edu/makeagift or call Coe Fund Director Barb Tupper ’89 at 800-332-8404 x8569.
2006 Garrett Akins and Melissa Oertle of Happy Valley, Oregon, on Aug. 23. He is a customer experience manager in the West Region of QuadGraphics.

2009 Katie Flores and Cory Kunz of Cave Creek, Arizona, on March 14.

2010 Kali Rietscheck and Matthew Anderson of Portland, Oregon, on Sept. 13.

2012 Jacob Breitbach and Hope Baumgartner of Warrenville, Illinois, on April 18 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. He is a patient care technician in the emergency room at Edward Hospital in Naperville.
Welcoming new Kohawks into the nest

1989 Laura Nekola and her husband, Jerry O’Brien, of Lake Forest, Illinois, a daughter, Anna, on May 28, 2014.

1991 John Rudisill and Stephanie Siddens ‘94 of Mount Vernon, Ohio, adopted a daughter, Szabina, on June 7, 2014.

1998 Camille Leganza and her husband, Okan Tokel, of Seattle, a daughter, Olivia, on Feb. 1.

2001 Janelle Wagg Clymer and Michael Clymer ’06, of Marion, Iowa, a daughter, Breckyn, on Sept. 3.

2002 Heidi Feller Berger and her husband, Howard, of Des Moines, Iowa, a son, Isaac, on Feb. 19.

Josh Stanek and Kristin Smith Stanek ’03 of Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, a son, Caden, on Nov. 8. Sisters Addy and Kylee welcomed their brother home.

2003 Shaun Freeman Sr. and his wife, Sole, of Fort Worth, Texas, a son, Shaun II, on March 3.

Michael Wieseler and his wife, Laurie, of Ankeny, Iowa, a son, Kyle, on Nov. 4.

2004 Jennifer Flannagan Cox and her husband, Kip, of Cedar Rapids, a son, Blaine, on Oct. 16.

CORRECTION: Mark Wackwitz and Keanna Smith ’07 of Colorado Springs, Colorado, a son, Ethan, on Nov. 24.

2007 Jared Creason and Jessica Zimmerman Creason of Indianola, Iowa, a son, Cash, on Sept. 27.

2008 Rob Hanna and Chelsea Hinderks Hanna ’09 of Cedar Rapids, a son, Rowland, on Sept. 26.

Brian White and his wife, Jackie, of Independence, Iowa, a daughter, Kayla, on March 3.

2009 Sarah Manatt Ritchie and her husband, Curt, of Tempe, Arizona, a daughter, Magdalene, on April 26.

Kristin Toerpe Steele and her husband, Tim, of Lisle, Illinois, a daughter, Adelyn, on Feb. 17.
1934 Correction

Gesina Schutter, Munson, 103, of West Bend, Iowa, on Nov. 13. She taught upper elementary English and social studies at Halfa-Armstrong, Goldfield and Wesley. She taught Sunday School at the United Presbyterian Church, sang in the choir, was the church pianist, Clerk of Session, and held offices in the United Presbyterian Women and Rodman Mariners. She was a Cub Scout den mother, Brownie and Girl Scout leader and band mother for all four of her children, and taught piano lessons. She was a member of the Ladies Social Literary Club for 49 years, district officer of Republican Women, UNICEF Chairwoman for over 21 years, charter member of the West Bend Historical Society, pianist and officer in the Legion Auxiliary, a volunteer in the Lauback Literacy program and volunteer pianist at the West Bend Care Center for 25 years. In the late 1960s, she renewed her teaching certificate at Mankato State College and earned the reading endorsement from the University of South Dakota. She was a substitute teacher and taught remedial reading in West Bend. She is survived by two sons, Jerry of Silverdale, Washington, and Paul of Manotick, Ontario; a daughter, Joyce Munson ’72, 302 Fifth St. SW, West Bend, IA 50597; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

1935 Leslie Seyb, 99, of Philomath, Oregon, on Feb. 20. He received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Iowa in 1939. His first job was in the patent department of Phillips Petroleum in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he worked until 1942. He joined the research department of Diamond Alkali (later Diamond Shamrock) in Painesville, Ohio. During the war, he primarily worked on developing nonflammable paint, which became a critical component in reducing fire damage on warships. After the war, he continued as group leader at Diamond, where his research branched out into projects involving fatty acids, wetting agents, textile bleaching, synthetic detergents and pesticides. In 1964, he left Diamond and moved to Corvallis to become chief of physical sciences at the newly formed Pacific Northwest Water Laboratory, which became part of the Environmental Protection Agency. He was assistant director of this organization, which worked to clean up lakes and rivers throughout Oregon. He retired in 1978. He is survived by his wife, Lucille, P.O. Box 1491, Philomath, OR 97370; two sons, Stefan of Corvallis and Stanford of Newport; and a granddaughter.

1936 Kathryn Knutson Savel, 99, of Clinton, Iowa, on Feb. 20. She graduated cum laude with a major in home economics. She briefly taught home economics and science at Geneseo Consolidated School. She worked on the Cedar Rapids Election board for 40 years as well as serving as a substitute teacher for the Cedar Rapids Community School District. She was employed by the Department of Labor for 20 years gathering statistics for the Consumer Price Index. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Pirch of Camanche; a son, William Savel of Cedar Rapids; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1938 Wilma Gaunt Nichol, 100, of Davenport, Iowa, on Jan. 25. She earned her bachelor’s in teaching from St. Ambrose University and continued her education at the University of Iowa. She taught for 42 years, 26 of which were with the Davenport school system. She is survived by a brother, Jack Gaunt of Marshalltown.

1942 Patricia Salter Bradshaw, 94, of Palm Beach, Florida, and New York City on April 20. Her father, Raymond, died while she was very young. She was raised by her mother, Alice Salter, a professor of sociology at Coe. Pat went on to earn her Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University in 1951. Her dissertation was published and briefly made the New York Times bestseller list. She taught sociology at Columbia and worked at the Bureau of Applied Social Research at that university. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at Barnard College from 1981-89. Over the years she contributed a number of pieces to the opinion pages of the New York Times and the Washington Post. Later in life she published a book of humorous memoirs as well as a novella. She is survived by four sons, Jeffrey West, Nick West, Andy West and Eric West; three stepchildren, Jonathan Bradshaw, Nancy Poor and Priscilla Bradshaw; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

1943 William Corbett, 93, of Pinehurst, North Carolina, on March 4. He was president of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity at Coe. As a first lieutenant in the Army, he trained Chinese troops before being reassigned to Merrill’s Marauders as a platoon leader in Myitkina, Burma. From 1946–63 he was a stockbroker with Hornblower and Weeks in Chicago. Then he took up cattle ranching in Arkansas. From 1965 until his early retirement in 1973, he served as resident manager of the San Diego office of Hornblower and Weeks-Hemphill, Noyes. He subsequently entered the real estate business, launching his own company, W. A. Corbett and Associates. An avid yachtsman, he held a master’s license with the U.S. Coast Guard, was a member of the San Diego Yacht Club, and was captain of the San Diego Ocean Yacht Club.
Racing Fleet in 1972. In 1988 he joined Bravo Adventures as a director and established a sea division titled "Bravo at Sea." He captained the vessel Argonauta on sea voyages for troubled youth from the honor camp in Campo, California. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Letha Taylor Corbett ’46, 230 St. Andrew’s Dr., Pinehurst, NC 28374; four daughters, Linda Macdonald of Winter Park, Florida, Louise Miller of Pine Valley, California, Jean Fowler of Covington, Georgia, and Joan Hilsman of Aberdeen; 15 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

1944 Margaret “Peggy” Johnson Hartman, 91, of Spring Hill, Florida, on March 29. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Robert, 7056 Siena Ave., Spring Hill, FL 34608.

1946 Margaret Craig Wood, 90, of Menomonie, Wisconsin, on Feb. 17. She taught first grade for 20 years in Hiawatha, Iowa. She is survived by two sons, Dale of Stilwell, Kansas, and Dan of Menomonie; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Paul Orcutt, 89, of Marion, Iowa, on Feb. 5. While at Coe, he belonged to the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and was a cheerleader. He served in the Army from 1946-47. He graduated from the University of Iowa Medical School in 1951. While in medical school, he completed an externship at Mercy Hospital in Cedar Rapids and later completed an internship in Duluth, Minnesota. He opened a general medicine practice in Marion in 1952 where he treated patients until his retirement in 1985. He was made a charter fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians in 1974, president of St. Luke’s Hospital physician’s staff in 1974, Kiwanis Club Citizen of the Year in 1997, Citizen of the Year for the Marion Swamp Fox Festival in 1997, and the Old Settler’s Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year in 2007. He is survived by his wife Peggy, 3305 Willowridge Rd. Unit C, Marion, IA 52302; four daughters, Patricia Tow of Hiawatha, Dr. Connie Orcutt of Brookline, Massachusetts, Dr. Paula Orcutt of Spencer, Massachusetts, and Kathryn Callahan of Sonoma, California; two sons, Timothy Callahan of Reno, Nevada, and Michael Orcutt of Sacramento, California; three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Jean Trefz Schoneman, 89, of Cedar Rapids, on Feb. 8. She taught first through eighth grade in a one-room school house near Toddville. She worked on the assembly line at Collins Radio during World War II and was a supervisor for Bell Telephone. She was preceded in death by her brother, the Rev. Dr. Edward Trefz ’37. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Vern Schoneman, 142 35th St. Dr. SE Apt. 1, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403; two children, Mark Schoneman of rural Center Point and Mary Ehret of Cedar Rapids; a granddaughter; and three great-grandchildren.

Priscilla “Perk” Wells Stanko, 92, of Bloomington, Minnesota, on March 9. She was a counselor at YWCA summer camps in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 1947, she was named a delegate to the World Conference on Christian Youth in Oslo, Norway, and then to the YWCA World Conference in Sweden. In 1950, she took the job as director of teenage programs for the Minneapolis YWCA. After her son, Bruce, died of cancer at age 9 in 1971, she helped start the Ronald McDonald House on the University of Minnesota campus. As its first volunteer executive director, she was part of a small group of parents, physicians and friends who bought and renovated an old boardinghouse in the 1970s to provide a home away from home for families with children in need of long-term medical care. The original Ronald McDonald House opened in 1979 with just a couple of rooms. For 10 years, she led fundraisers as a second house was built and then a third and a fourth, which brought the total number of rooms to 52. For her efforts, she was honored with a WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Ed, 9901 Penn Ave. South Apt. 200, Minneapolis, MN 55431; two daughters, Sandy Knilans of New Hope and Karen Brogan of Forest Lake; nine grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and a half-sister, Ellen Collins of Toledo, Iowa.

1947 Betty Dahl Sorensen, 88, of Benton, Louisiana, on April 18. She earned a master’s in counseling from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She taught math, English, P.E., Spanish, art, geography, bookkeeping and typing for over 25 years in Arkansas. She is survived by three daughters, Janet Sheets of Kaysville, Utah, Joy Nentrup of Burleson, Texas, and Jill Frost of Benton; and four grandchildren.

1950 Ralph LaCombe Jr., 89, of Cedar Rapids, on Feb. 20. He served in the Navy during World War II and earned his master’s from the University of Iowa in 1962. He was owner and operator of LaCombe Kucera and Associates. He was a member of the Optimist Club, where he had been past governor, Community Concert Association and Navy Band. He was past president of Tanager Place and a member of New Horizons Band, Dixie Notes Plus and Marion American Legion Post 298. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanita Ward LaCombe. He is survived by a daughter, Laura of Cedar Rapids; a son, Lee of Urbana; two granddaughters; and two step-grandchildren.

John “Jack” Trautwein, 86, of Sarasota, Florida, on Aug. 1. He was a member of the music faculty at North Dakota State University for over 20 years. He was director of the Varsity Men’s Glee Club, taught music theory, voice, conducting and music education. He also managed over 50 music contests for North Dakota as well as All State contests. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, 3173 Lake Park Ln., Sarasota, FL 34231; three children, Gregg of Fargo, North Dakota, Pamela Arnstein of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Paul of Loveland, Colorado; and eight grandchildren.

1951 Dorothy Lee Parry, 84, of Yucaipa, California, on Oct. 13.

Eldon Pugh, 86, of Cedar Rapids, on March 19. At Coe, he was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon fraternity, Pi Delta
Epsilon Journalism fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and concert band. He received an ROTC commission as a second lieutenant. After graduation, he was a casualty underwriter at Iowa National Mutual Insurance Co. for four years. He then joined Amana Refrigeration in domestic and international sales, retiring after 37 years in 1992 as vice president of international sales. He was a SCORE counselor for 21 years and involved with the Grant Wood Area Chapter of the American Red Cross for 22 years, serving as chapter chair and on the national nomination committee. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Margaret Graham Pugh '49, 2135 First Ave. SE Apt. 323, Cedar Rapids, IA 52492; a daughter, Lora Reynolds of San Antonio; a son, Greg of San Antonio; and two granddaughters. Margaret Graham Pugh '49, 2135 First Ave. SE Apt. 323, Cedar Rapids, IA 52492; a daughter, Lora Reynolds of San Antonio; a son, Greg of San Antonio; and two granddaughters.

Retired Air Force Col. Charles Rasley, 88, of O’Fallon, Illinois, on March 18. He was a World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veteran and served continuously for over 38 years. He was a previous owner of Eagle Stamp and Coin. He is survived by eight children, Cynthia Kurtak of Edwardsville, Sherry Mahieu of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Cynthia McQuillan of Millstadt, James McKinney of Daytona Beach, Florida, Shari Trelow of O’Fallon, Craig McKinney of Fairview Heights, Jeanne Slauson of Waterford, Wisconsin, and Kristopher Rasley of Belleville; 15 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

1955 Elma Kehrli Schiel, 80, of Ames, Iowa, on April 13. At Coe she was selected as the freshman representative of the Associated Women Students, was one of only six Scholars of 1951, and served as secretary and founding member of the Women’s Rifle & Pistol Club. She worked in the office of the Dean of the Junior College at Iowa State University. She returned to work at ISU in the mid-1970s, moving shortly thereafter to the President’s Office, from which she retired in 1997. She is survived by two brothers, Wilbur and Larry; her husband, Harold, 2111 Burnett Ave., Ames, IA 50010; two daughters, Deb Schiel-Larson of Indianapolis and Marty Schiel of Melbourne, Australia; and two grandchildren.

1956 Lois Caspers Hearn, 81, of Monticello, Iowa, on March 19. With her husband, Gilbert, she owned and operated Hearn Oil and Tire for 40 years. After retirement, she helped Gilbert run his real estate business, R Realty. Gus Nizzi, 80, of Arcadia, Florida on March 27 after a long battle with cancer. He earned his master’s from Roosevelt University. He began his career in education as a 7th grade teacher, served many years as a principal, and ultimately retired as a superintendent.

1957 Phil Alexander, 79, of Marion, Iowa, on April 26. He started out as a coach and teacher at State Center. He then moved to southern California, where he began a career in the lighting industry first working as a commercial lighting manufacturer’s representative. He then became national sales manager of American Lantern in Newport, Arkansas. From 1985-89 he was president and CEO of decorative lighting giant Progress Lighting. He also served as president and CEO of Seattle Lighting Fixture Co. and in 1999 a founder, with his sons, of a new concept lighting distributorship called “Alexanders’ Contractor Lighting.” He built the company into a multi-million dollar operation. From 1999-2002 he worked for Forecast Lighting, where he was vice president and general manager. In 2003, he joined American Fluorescent and led its implementation launch into the light commercial market and oversaw its OEM and hospitality divisions. After being retired for six months, he again worked in the lighting industry for Kichler as its vice president of sales and marketing. He had also assisted the Marion City Council. He is survived by five children, Phil of Seattle, Todd of Newport Beach, California, Chris Snowdy of Lakewood, California, Tracy Hart of Chico, California, and Jessica Koenen of Laguna Niguel, California; two sisters, Penny Lundeen of Bettendorf and Stephanie Mohr of Cedar Rapids; and six grandchildren.

The Rev. Byron “Dean” Overholser, 83, of Hickory, North Carolina, on Oct. 27. He served as a minister in the Presbyterian Church for over 35 years in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, North Carolina, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania and as a hospital chaplain. He also taught at Caldwell Community College and was a substitute teacher in the Catawba County Schools. He worked with the Board of Education in planning/developing comprehensive educational modules for city schools. He is survived by his son, Scot of Balaire, Texas; and two sisters, Janice of Chicago and Pat Hase of Florida.

1958 Jim Paulson, 79, of Des Moines, Iowa, on Feb. 4 from lung cancer. He served in the Army from 1958-60. He graduated from McGeorge School of Law in 1984. He retired as an administrative law judge for the state of Iowa. He was one of the pioneers of the disability program, having been with Disability Determination Services for 43 years. He served as an examiner, vocational specialist, supervisor and disability hearing officer. In 2004, he was selected to receive an Associate Commissioner’s Award for outstanding service, achievement and dedication to the Social Security services and the disabled citizens of Iowa. He is survived by four children, Jeff of Arizona, Mark of Cedar Rapids, Dana of Arizona and Dawn of Arizona; four grandchildren; and companion, Joyce Rice.

1959 Marsha Mullen Aukenman, 77, of Aurora, Illinois, on Feb. 17. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Wayne Mullen '56.
and Bruce Mullen ’56. She is survived by four daughters, Cindy Zavala, Lori Falck, Randi Littrell and Kelli Key; and nine grandchildren.

1960 Herb Ehninger, 76, of Hernando, Florida, on Nov. 23. He was an Army veteran and a Citrus County Sherriff volunteer. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carol Kunkel Ehninger ’57, 741 E. Hartford St. #1B, Hernando, FL 34442; a daughter, Elizabeth Wyman; two sons, Tom of Hot Springs Village, AR 71909; three sons, Tom of Hot Springs Village, Ken of Atlanta, and Scott of Kyle, Texas; four grandchildren; and a cousin, Dimis Ehninger Wyman ’59 of Lombard, Illinois.

1961 Robert Mueller, 78, of Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, on Feb. 9. He was an Army veteran and a CPA in the insurance industry. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Ann Mueller, 4 Vilafranca Lane, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909; three sons, Tom of Hot Springs Village, Ken of Atlanta, and Scott of Kyle, Texas; four grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

1962 Jean Bice Wilkins, 94, of Yerington, Nevada, on March 26. She completed her master’s in education at the University of Iowa. She taught for over 20 years and was the reading specialist for the Linn-Mar School District in Marion, Iowa. She is survived by a sister, Ruth Arnold; two daughters, Carol Wagers and Phyllis Moats; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Robert Schuldt, 75, of Grayslake, Illinois, on Feb. 23. He began his Air Force career as a public affairs officer. After eight years of active duty, he continued his career as an officer in the reserves and retired as a colonel in 1992. As a civilian, he used his knowledge and experience in several areas in the business world. He especially loved his hardware store, Industrial Wholesale Hardware and later, Action Hardware. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sailee Accola Schuldt ’61. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, 12 Derby Court, Grayslake, IL 60030; two daughters, Kim Eisler of DeForest, Wisconsin, Kari McCormick of Lake Zurich; 22 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

1963 Dr. We-Seah Larry Ba, 76, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, on March 16. Born in Bangkok, Thailand, he immigrated to the United States to attend Coe College for his undergraduate degree, later attending the University of Wisconsin for medical school. He spent more than 25 years working as an anesthesiologist at San Pedro Peninsula Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Ana (Lau) Ba, 26616 Fond Du Lac Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275; three daughters, Alice, Linda and Lorita; a son, Allen; three step-children, John Cho, Ana Park and Giovanni Cho; and eight grandchildren and step-grandchildren.

1966 Susan Kohler, 70, of Cedar Rapids, on April 9. She was a systems engineer for IBM and later an IT consultant for St. Luke’s Hospital. She is survived by a brother, Mike of Portland, Oregon.

1968 Judith Maier Welter, 68, of Prior Lake, Minnesota, on Feb. 8. She is survived by two sons, Josh Welter ’96, 8636 Ridgewood Lane, Savage, MN 55378 and Cary Welter; her grandchildren; and a sister, Dr. Margaret Latchaw.

1970 Jane Knipfer, 76, of North English, Iowa, on Jan. 6. She taught at Lone Tree Public School and Urbana Public School, retiring in 1978. She is survived by three brothers, Ross and Glenn, both of North English, and Stanley of Keosauqua.

Fred Moyer, 78, the husband of Carol Moyer, on March 30. He coached wrestling at Coe from 1963–69 before coaching football for 21 years at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota. He is survived by Carol, 11030 Queen Ave. S., Bloomington, MN 55431; four children, Tim, Tami, Kelly and Sally; 10 grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

1977 Susan Mikula Meyer, 59, of Mentor, Ohio, on March 9. She worked in sales at PMC-Colinet for four years. She is survived by two sons, Brian and Eric; and a brother, Andrew Mikula.

1978 David Schmidt, 57, the mayor of Park Ridge, Illinois, on March 4. He received his law degree, cum laude, from Chicago’s Loyola University School of Law in 1990, where he was second in his class. While in law school, he served as the president of the Student Bar Association. A member of Chittenden, Murday & Novotny LLC, he was a lawyer with more than 20 years of litigation, trial and appellate experience in courts in Illinois and elsewhere in the U.S. In 2011, 2012 and 2014, he was named a Leading Lawyer, an honor shared by only 5 percent of all lawyers in Illinois. A staunch Republican, he launched his career in nonpartisan local politics as an alderman serving the 1st Ward on the Park Ridge City Council. He was elected Park Ridge mayor in 2009 and re-elected – handily – in 2013. He is survived by a son, Kevin; three sisters, Cathy of Chicago, Beth Taylor of Evanston, and Karin of Des Plaines; a brother, Robert of Des Plaines; a granddaughter; and his stepmother, Kathleen of Greenwood, South Carolina.

1984 Helen Jones, 84, of Ankeny, Iowa, on April 13. She graduated from Methodist School of Nursing in 1951. After her children graduated from high school, she earned her bachelor’s from Coe. She is survived by four children, Carla Hilton, Randy Jones, Doug Jones and Eric Jones; 11 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.
Former Coe Security Guard Robert Cihla Sr., 69, of Cedar Rapids, died Jan. 19. He served in the Army during the Vietnam War from 1965-1967. He had worked at Hy-Vee, Collins, Coe College and at Lindale until his retirement in 2005. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Carolyn, 3628 Raccoon Ridge Rd. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404; two children, Shelly Teberg and Rob, both of Cedar Rapids; seven grandchildren; and a sister, Linda Shimek of Shueyville.

Former Coe French Professor David Gobert, 82, of Carterville, Illinois, died March 13. He received his bachelor’s from Millikin University in 1954 and earned his master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. He joined the Coe faculty in 1958 and taught French and applied linguistics and served as director of the NDEA French Institute and acting chairman of the Foreign Language Department. In 1965, he left Coe to begin a 33-year association with Southern Illinois University as faculty member and administrator. He is fondly remembered by former students for his courses in French language, literature, and civilization, and by former colleagues for his service on various department, college and university committees. He took pleasure in traveling to France for research, conducting student study travel programs, and placing students in internships with French businesses. He authored or co-authored several texts and numerous articles in scholarly journals on French language and literature. He received the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Teacher Award in 1988; a Diplôme Supérieur Français des Affaires from the Chambre de Commerce et d’Industrie de Paris in 1989; Illinois Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Outstanding Service in the Profession in 1994; and in 1996 he was named by the French government as a Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques for services rendered to French culture. He retired from SIU in 1998 but remained active in adult education. He is survived by his wife, Sandy, 604 Country Club Lane, Carterville, IL 62918; five children, Christopher of New Orleans, Jonathan of Carterville, Daniel of Carbondale, David of Carterville, and Katharin Gobert-Brown of Albia, Iowa; a sister, Carol Barnhart of Decatur; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Director of Residence Life Krista Kronstein received the diversity faculty/staff advocacy award at Leadership Convocation on April 20.

Director of Community Engagement Kayla Lyftogt Vande Haar was named the outstanding faculty/staff mentor at Leadership Convocation on April 20.

Travis Osen-Foss joined the Advancement Office as the office coordinator and assistant to the vice president of advancement.

In celebration of his 70th birthday year, Alma A. Turechek Professor of Music Emeritus Jerry Owen presented a concert of his own music March 8 in Sinclair Auditorium on the Coe College campus. Iowa poet and Coe English Professor Ann Struthers made a special appearance to read from her book of poems, “Stoneboat.”

At the invitation of the Iowa City Secular Humanists, Professor of Biology Emeritus Floyd Sandford performed his one-man play “Darwin Remembers” at a dinner theatre fundraiser in Iowa City on March 7.

Mary Springer joined the Advancement Office as the assistant to the Coe Fund.

Director of First-Year Recruitment Holly Zimmerman Fourtner ’05 received the Michael Barron Impact Award from the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling.

Renowned American race and slavery historian Peter H. Wood gave a Civil War lecture at Coe on Feb. 19 as the inaugural event in the James and Linnie Phifer History Speaker Series. Wood is professor emeritus of history at Duke University, where he taught for more than 30 years. He is pictured with Coe history faculty (left to right) Angela Ziskowski, Derek Buckaloo, Brie Swenson Arnold, David Nordmann ’87 and Bethany Kennan.
Sever members of the Coe faculty received special recognition at the college’s Commencement ceremony on May 10.

This year’s Eliza Hickok Kesler Outstanding Service Award winner was Professor of Computer Science and John F. Yothers Professor of Mathematics Cal Van Niewaal, who has served Coe for 34 years. He is the longtime elected secretary to the faculty and serves as college marshal, leading the academic processions at opening convocation in August and the Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies each May. He works closely with students as an advisor for the college’s Beta Kappa Chapter of the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia fraternity and as the secretary-treasurer for the Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

The award is given most years at Coe’s graduation. It was created in 1999 to honor superior, long-term service to Coe. The award is named for Eliza Hickok Kesler ‘31, known to generations of the Coe family as Roby, whose lifetime of distinguished service to the college is unparalleled.

As selected by the graduating class, the Charles J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award was presented to Stead Family Professor of Psychology Nükhet Yarbrough. A native of Istanbul, Yarbrough came to Coe in 1985 and chairs the Institutional Review Board.

Presented by Board of Trustees Chairman Dave Carson ’72, the award was established at Coe in 1983. It is presented annually at Commencement and consists of a $2,000 prize made possible by an endowment gift.

Two professors were granted emeritus status during the Commencement ceremony.

Robert O. Daniel Professor of Art John Beckelman began teaching ceramics and sculpture at Coe in 1978, and served as chairman of the Art Department for more than 20 years. A past winner of the C.J. Lynch Outstanding Teacher Award, Beckelman has spent many hours alongside his students over the years, guiding them and inspiring them to transform clay, plaster, and wood into works of beauty.

He also has earned numerous awards for his work, which is sought after by collectors and is housed in many major galleries and museums. Beckelman has been a strong advocate for the arts in the Creative Corridor for decades, most recently for The Ceramics Center in the rapidly growing New Bohemia arts community.

Professor of Education Roger Johanson has taught at Coe since 1986, and served for many years as department chairman as well as director of the Master of Arts in Teaching program. Johanson began his career as a junior high school mathematics teacher, and continued his interest in math and computer science education throughout his career. In 1992, he was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Research Scholarship to study the use of the Logo computer language in Costa Rican public schools. He is the author of numerous publications and has presented at many conferences on a variety of educational topics, but particularly those related to math and computer science.

An avid runner, Johanson was named the Iowa Cross Country Division 3A Boys State Coach of the Year in 2005 when his Mount Vernon High School team won the state championship. He has also served on the Mount Vernon Community School District School Board, giving him yet another perspective on the K-12 education system.

New appointments for three endowed chairs were announced at Commencement. Appointed to five-year terms were Howard Hall Professor of Philosophy Jeffrey Hoover, Robert O. Daniel Professor of Art History Andrea Kann and McCabe Endowed Associate Professor of Religion Meira Kensky.

Coe is fortunate to have 27 endowed chairs, each held by a deserving faculty member, and each restricted to the department or departments of the donor’s choosing. Chairs are typically held for five-year terms, so that every year one or more chairs become eligible to be awarded to a faculty member, either a new or continuing recipient, who has earned distinction as a teacher and scholar.

Appointment to an endowed chair honors the chosen faculty member, the college and the donor.
Join Kohawks on campus to celebrate reunions, learn about sustainability at Coe and around the country, visit the new Learning Commons, attend college classes, and reconnect with classmates, professors, staff and friends.

Homecoming invitations will be mailed late July. Registration will open online Aug. 12 at alumni.coe.edu/homecoming2015.


**Affinity Reunions:** Phi Mu Alpha-Sinfonia 85th Anniversary and the 1955 & 1964 Midwest Athletic Conference Football Championship Teams

**Special Event:** All-Alumni Recognition Reception: 9:45 a.m., Saturday, featuring a welcome by President Dave McInally, recognition of reunion classes, pinning of the 1965 Golden Reunion Class and presentation of the alumni awards featuring Gary Scharbaum ’65, the Alumni Award of Merit; Bob Trimpl ’60, the Distinguished Service Award; Megan Gilligan ’05 and Mason Kuhn ’00, the Young Alumni Award.

Don’t miss the Friday evening kick off celebration of special campus projects!